



## State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education

Testimony by

Timothy D. Larson, Executive Director

Office of Higher Education

before the  
Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Exum, Representative Paris, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Office of Higher Education on **HB 6901 – AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS.**

The Office of Higher Education appreciates the intent of this legislation as it aims to ease the financial burden of Connecticut residents who attend state universities and colleges to become nurses and educators, or enter the fields of child care, mental health or social services – all of which are in high demand. In recent years, under Governor Lamont’s leadership, Connecticut has made significant financial commitments to stimulate workforce development in these areas, and the Governor’s most recent proposed budget also includes important initiatives to address these needs. Unfortunately, since the additional funds necessary to implement this pilot program are not included in the Governor’s proposed budget, the agency is unable to support this bill at this time. Thank you for your time.

Ned Lamont, Governor • Timothy D. Larson, Executive Director  
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